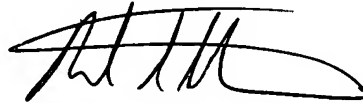


REMARKS

Claims 16-17, 21, 23, 27-31, and 33 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests an action on the merits of claims 1-34.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark G. Mortenson', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark G. Mortenson
Reg. No. 31,182

January 3, 2006

The Law Offices of Mark G. Mortenson
Post Office Box 310
North East, MD 21901-0310
Telephone: 410-287-8795
Telefax: 410-287-5046